

Appl. No. 10/804,918

Amdt. After Final under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 Dated June 21, 2006

Reply to Office Action Made Final dated March 21, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the specification, pages 3 and 4 have been amended to correct minor grammatical, punctuation, spelling and reference numeral errors. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter these amendments to the specification.

Applicants have canceled claims and amended claims and added new claims which present the canceled claims in better form and clearer dependency for allowance. The present amendment was not presented earlier because the art primarily cited by the Examiner in the March 21 2006 Office Action Made Final (i.e., Shiga, et al. US 2004/0083282) was not cited by the Examiner in earlier prosecution. In light of the new art cited, the present amendment is necessary to obtain allowance (as will become clearer in the remarks below addressing the rejections of the claims by the Examiner in the March 21 2006 Office Action). Thus, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b)(3), Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the foregoing amendment as Applicants have established good and sufficient reasons why the amendment is necessary to move this application towards allowance and why the amendment was not presented earlier. After entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 4, 7, 9 to 14, 17 to 19 and 26 to 35 remain in this application. Claims 1 to 3, 5, 6, 8, 15, 16, and 20 to 25 have been canceled and new Claims 26 to 35 have been added.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 21, 22 and 25 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Shiga, et al. (US 2004/0083282). Applicants have canceled Claims 1, 2, 21, 22 and 25, thereby rendering the Examiner's rejection thereof moot.

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The Examiner has rejected Claims 3 to 16, 23 and 24 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiga, et al., in view of Matsuzaki, et al. (US 2004/0162870). Applicants have canceled Claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 15 and 16 and have added Claims 26 to 35 to present the canceled claims in better form for allowance. Applicants believe that the rejection of Claims 3 to 16, 23 and 24 has been traversed by the remarks below and overcome by the amendment of Claims 4, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 14 and the remarks below.

Shiga et al. teaches a terminal management table 15 with records stored therein. The records consist of a user ID identifying a terminal, the priority of the terminal, and communication information for the terminal, such as an IP address for communicating therewith (FIG. 12, paragraph [0038]).

Matsuzaki et al. discloses a group admission system where, when registering the client device 200, the server 100 sometimes generates expiry information to define a time period during which the registration with the server is valid.

Claim 4, as amended, calls for a method of communication device registration which identifies the communication device, sets a registration time, selects an expiration registration time, and stores the identified communication device, the registration time and the expiration registration time in an entry in a database for maintaining information on the registered communication devices. The expiration registration time is selected corresponding to the identified communication device and based upon a type of the communication device. For example, Claim 10 calls for the further limitation wherein the type of identified communication device is a computer and the expiration registration time selected based upon the type of the communication device (i.e., based upon the identified communication device being a computer)

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is one hour, and Claim 12 calls for the further limitation wherein the type of identified communication device is a mobile station and the expiration registration time selected based upon the type of the communication device (i.e., based upon the identified communication device being a computer) is ten hours. As discussed in the specification of the present application, selecting the expiration registration time in accordance with claim 4, as amended, advantageously allows control of the time that communication devices may be active based upon the communication traits associated with the type of the communication device, such as a computer which location is fixed and a mobile station which can roam freely (page 4, lines 3-10).

Neither Shiga, et al., Matsuzaki, et al. nor the combination thereof teaches or discloses selecting an expiration registration time based upon the type of an identified communication device. As the Examiner states, Matsuzaki, et al. teaches registering a communication device by storing an identification of the communication along with a registration time and, perhaps, an expiration of registration time. Referring to paragraphs [0302] to [0308], Matsuzaki, et al. discloses how to determine the time that registration is valid from the expiration time. Matsuzaki, et al. however, does not disclose any means for selecting the expiration time, and, more specifically, does not disclose any method for selecting the expiration of registration time in response to a type of communication device.

Accordingly, Claim 4, as amended, is not rendered unpatentable by the combination of Shiga, et al., in view of Matsuzaki, et al. Claims 7 and 9 to 14, as amended, and new claims 26 to 32 depend from Claim 4, as amended. New Claims 26 to 32 correspond to canceled Claims 1 to 3, 5, 6, 8, 15 and 16, restating the canceled claims and their dependency from amended Claim

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4 in better form and clearer dependency for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants believe that Claims 4, 7 and 9 to 14, as amended, and new Claims 26 to 32 are in condition for allowance and allowance of these claims is earnestly requested.

New Claim 33 to 35 presents dependent Claim 13 in independent format and Claims 34 to 35, corresponding to Claims 14 and 4, depend therefrom. Claim 33 calls for a method of communication device registration which identifies the communication device, selects a priority of the identified communication device, and stores the identified communication device, the registration time and the expiration registration time in an entry in a database for maintaining information on the registered communication devices. The priority of the identified communication device is selected based upon the type of the identified communication device, the type of registration by the user of the identified communication device, or the location of the identified communication device. For example, Claim 34 calls for the further limitation of selecting a first priority based upon a location of a mobile station or based on a manual registration and selecting a second priority for an automatic registration or re-registration. As discussed in the specification of the present application, selecting the priority in accordance with Claim 33 advantageously allows priority of the identified communication device to be determined in response to a location of the communication device, whether the registration is a manual or automatic registration, or whether the registration is a re-registration. (page 4, lines 11-19).

Neither Shiga, et al., Matsuzaki, et al., nor the combination thereof teaches or discloses the limitation of selecting a priority of the identified communication device based upon one or more of the type of the identified communication device, the type of registration by the user of

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the identified communication device and the location of the identified communication device as called for in Claim 33. While Shiga, et al. discloses storing a priority of a terminal in the entry along with the identification of the terminal (see paragraph [0038]), no mention is made of how the priority is chosen nor is any methodology discussed of how the control server 1 or other controller or processor determines the priority stored in the terminal management table 15 (FIG. 12A). Matsuzaki, et al. also does not discuss selection of any priority for a communication device when registering that device (see paragraphs [0181] to [0194]).

Accordingly, Claims 33 to 35 are not rendered unpatentable by the combination of Shiga, et al., in view of Matsuzaki, et al. New Claims 33 and 34 correspond to Claims 13 and 14 as previously presented, and Claim 35, depending from Claim 33, corresponds to adding the limitations of Claim 4, as amended. Thus, Claims 33 to 35 restate the previously presented claims in better form and clearer dependency for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants believe that new Claims 33 to 35 are in condition for allowance and allowance of these claims is earnestly requested.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 17 to 20 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pepper, et al. (US 5,930,700), in view of Shiga, et al. Applicants have canceled Claim 20. Applicants believe that the rejection of Claims 17 to 20 has been overcome by the amendment of Claims 17 and 19 and the remarks below.

Pepper et al. teaches, as the Examiner sets out, a network receiving a call for a registered user, accessing a database entry for the registered user, and coupling the call to the communication device. However, neither Pepper, et al., Shiga, et al. nor the combination thereof teaches or discloses a method as claimed in Claim 17, as amended, for expediting a call

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to one of multiple communication devices registered by a registered user in response to the highest priority and most recent registration time of the communication device, as entered and stored in a database entry. More specifically, as claimed in Claim 19, as amended, if there is only one device with the highest priority, that device is chosen for the expedited call and if there is more than one device with the highest priority, then the most recently registered device with that priority is chosen for the expedited call. As discussed in the specification of the present application, the present invention, as claimed in Claim 17, as amended, advantageously a call to the communication device evidencing the highest priority and the most recent registration time as selecting the communication device in this manner for an expedited call is most likely to reach the user (see page 4, line 29 to page 5, line 3).

As the Examiner points out in rejecting Claim 17 as previously presented, Pepper, et al. does not teach or disclose selecting a device having a highest priority. Shiga, et al. discloses selecting a communication device based upon priority (see paragraph [0008]) but when describing how priority is used for selection of a device for communication (see paragraphs [0061] to [0062]) does not describe any other criteria used for selection of expedited communication.

Accordingly, Claims 17 to 19, as amended, are not rendered unpatentable by the combination of Pepper, et al., in view of Shiga, et al. Claims 17 to 19 have been amended to place them in better form and clearer dependency for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants believe that Claims 17 to 19, as amended, are in condition for allowance and allowance of these claims is earnestly requested.

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In view of Applicant's amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Examiner's rejections under 35 USC §102(b) and 35 USC §103(a), have been overcome. The Examiner has made the Office action of March 21, 2006 final. Applicants have canceled claims and amended claims and added new claims which present the canceled claims in better form and clearer dependency for allowance. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.116(b)(3), Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the foregoing amendment as Applicants have established good and sufficient reasons why the amendment is necessary to move this application towards allowance and why the amendment was not presented earlier. Additionally, in view of Applicants' amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of Examiner's rejections have been overcome and/or traversed. With entry of the foregoing amendment of the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the application, as amended, is now in condition for allowance, and such allowance is therefore earnestly requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the Applicants attorneys at (480) 385-5060.

Applicants have previously paid for twenty-five (25) claims, including three (3) independent claims. With entry of the foregoing amendment, the application contains twenty-one (21) claims, including three (3) independent claims. In addition, this response to the Office Action dated March 21, 2006 is submitted within the shortened statutory period for reply of three months (i.e., on or before June 21, 2006). Accordingly, the undersigned Applicants' representative do not believe that any further fee for additional claims or additional independent claims is due or owing. If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to

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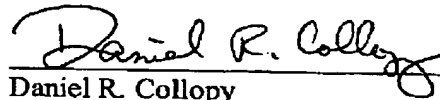
prevent abandonment on this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any additional fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

INGRASSIA FISHER & LORENZ

Dated: June 21, 2006

By:



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